



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

Jeffrey A. Taylor
United States Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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**District man sentenced to 20 years in prison for cold-blooded,
near-fatal shooting and District woman sentenced to 21 months
in prison for threatening a witness to the shooting**

WASHINGTON - A 19-year-old District man, Neal King, has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for committing a near-fatal shooting on November 24, 2007, in the Wingate Apartments in Southwest Washington, D.C., and his cousin, a 22-year-old District woman, Marquita King, has been sentenced to 21 months in prison for threatening the life of a witness to the shooting, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor announced today.

On December 23, 2008, after a four-day trial, a D.C. Superior Court jury found Neal King guilty of assault with intent to kill while armed with a firearm; possession of a firearm during a crime of violence; carrying a pistol without a license; possession of an unregistered firearm; and unlawful possession of ammunition. The same day, the jury found Marquita King guilty of felony threats. Today, the Honorable James E. Boasberg sentenced Neal King. Judge Boasberg previously sentenced Marquita King on February 20, 2009.

At trial, the government's evidence established that in the early afternoon of November 24, 2007, Neal King used a loaded handgun to try and rob an individual on the grounds of the Wingate Apartments. The victim was able to escape from King, after which the victim met up with his brother and told him what happened. The victim's brother found King a short while later and demanded to know why he had tried to victimize his brother. King responded by pulling his handgun out, forcing the victim's brother to walk to a nearby ditch, shooting him three times, including once in the back, and leaving him for dead. Though this shooting happened in broad daylight in the middle of the complex, only one person ran out to help the shooting victim and call 911. The Good Samaritan's heroic actions likely saved the shooting victim's life, who nevertheless went into an infection-induced coma for several weeks and thereafter had to relearn to walk and talk.

Two days after the shooting, the Good Samaritan was on the grounds of the Wingate Apartments when he passed by Marquita King, Neal King's cousin. She called him a "snitch," said "they" knew where he lived, and that "they" knew how to "keep snitches quiet." Fearful for his life, the Good Samaritan left his home and his job the next day, and with help from the U.S. Attorney's Office moved out of the area.

Of particular note, while imposing the sentence of nearly two years on Marquita King, who had no prior convictions and was eligible for probation, Judge Boasberg deplored “the culture of witness intimidation” in the District and said he wanted the sentence to send a message to her and the community that the criminal justice system cannot and will not tolerate such behavior.

In announcing the sentences, U.S. Attorney Taylor commended the work of Metropolitan Police Department (“MPD”) Detectives Leandia Hunsucker and Keith Batton, Seventh District MPD Officers Milton Gilchrist and Todd Perkins, and MPD Crime Scene Technicians Nathaniel Covington and Amber Chesla. He also praised the work of U.S. Attorney’s Office Paralegal Richard Cheatham. Finally, he thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Courtney D. Spivey and former Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles Neil Floyd for investigating and indicting the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sean P. Tonolli for trying the case.

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